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Promotion and protection of human rights: human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms

Note verbale dated 12 November 2012 from the Permanent Mission of Egypt to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Mission of Egypt to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary-General and, with reference to his report entitled "Moratorium on the use of the death penalty" (A/67/226), in particular paragraphs 39 and 44 thereof, which refer to Egypt as one among other Member States that have handed down death penalty sentences to children who were under 18 years of age at the time of their alleged offences and that have made available little or no information on their use of the death penalty, wishes to inform him of the following:

1. Egypt signed and ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child on 6 July 1990. In accordance with its obligations under article 37 (a), which prohibits the imposition of the death penalty on children, Egypt amended its criminal code by article 111 of the Children's Act (No. 12 of 1996) and Law 126 of 2008, which prohibit the imposition of the death penalty, life imprisonment and the imprisonment of those under 18 years of age at the time of the alleged crime.

2. All Egyptian laws, legislations and codes are publicly available on the Internet through the following electronic database www.arablegalportal.org/egyptverdicts/home.aspx, which was developed through a joint project of the United Nations Development Programme, the Ministry of Justice, the Center for Legal Studies and the Center for Judicial Information.

3. All information regarding the number of death penalty sentences rendered by the Egyptian judicial system is publicly available. Egyptian national legislation ensures that all court hearings are open to the public, and thus reported on by the media.

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4. The Ministry of Justice is currently in the process of launching a link on its website to provide information on official statistics regarding the number of death penalty sentences communicated to it.

The Government of Egypt would like to draw the attention of the Secretary-General to the need for the United Nations Secretariat to verify the information contained in the reports of the Secretary-General through reliable sources.

The Permanent Mission of Egypt requests the Secretary-General to circulate the present note verbale to all Member States, as soon as possible, as a document of the sixty-seventh session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 69 (b).